



(1a)

wherein:

R is a carboxylic acid [or a derivative thereof];

R¹ is an optionally substituted [cycloaliphatic, polycycloaliphatic, heterocycloaliphatic, polyheterocycloaliphatic, aromatic or heteroaromatic group;] phenyl, pyridyl, or pyrimidinyl group;

Alk¹ is an optionally substituted aliphatic or heteroaliphatic chain;

L¹ is a linker atom or group;

r and s, which may be the same or different, is each zero or an integer 1;

Alk² is a straight or branched alkylene chain;

m is zero or an integer 1;

R² is a hydrogen atom or a methyl group;

X¹ is a group selected from -N(R³)CO-, (where R³ is a hydrogen atom or a straight or branched alkyl group); -N(R³)SO₂-, -N(R³)C(O)O- or -N(R³)CON(R^{3a})- (where R^{3a} is a hydrogen atom or a straight or branched alkyl group);

R⁴ is an optionally substituted aliphatic, cycloaliphatic or polycycloaliphatic group;

and the salts, solvates, hydrates and N-oxides thereof].;

with the provisos that:

when R¹ is unsubstituted phenyl, -(Alk¹)(L¹)_r- is a -CONH- group, Alk² is -CH₂-, m is an integer 1, R² is a hydrogen atom, and X¹ is a -NHC(O)O- group, R⁴ is not a t-butyl group;

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when R¹ is unsubstituted phenyl, -(Alk¹)(L¹)₂- is a -CONH- group, Alk² is -CH₂-, m is an integer 1, R² is a hydrogen atom, and X¹ is a -NHC(O)- group, R⁴ is not a 1-[(phenylmethoxy)carbonylamino]isobutyl group; and

when R¹ is 2-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl, -(Alk¹)(L¹)₂- is a -CONH- group, Alk² is -CH₂-, m is an integer 1, R² is a hydrogen atom, and X¹ is a -NHC(O)- group, R⁴ is not a 4-[[[(t-butyloxy)carbonyl]amino]methyl]cyclohexyl group.

Cancel claims 2, 3, and 4, without prejudice.

Add claims 15, 16, 17, 18, and 19.

--15. A method according to Claim 14 wherein said disease or disorder is selected from the group consisting of inflammatory arthritis, multiple sclerosis, allograft rejection, diabetes, inflammatory dermatoses, asthma, and inflammatory bowel disease.

16. A method according to Claim 15 wherein said inflammatory arthritis is selected from the group consisting of rheumatoid arthritis vasculitis and polydermatomyositis.

17. A method according to Claim 16 wherein said inflammatory dermatoses are selected from the group consisting of psoriasis and dermatitis.

18. A method for inhibiting, in a mammal, the binding of $\alpha 4$ integrins to the ligands thereof, comprising administering to the mammal an effective amount of a compound according to Claim 1.

19. A method according to Claim 18 wherein the $\alpha 4$ integrins are $\alpha 4\beta 1$ integrins.--